

2020

When Jesus Marvels

LUKE

GOSPEL FOR EVERY ONE

Luke 7

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## Slide #1 - Title Slide

### INTRODUCTION

#### I Authority

- A. Welcome back to our journey through the Gospel of Luke.
- B. We are on page 52 in our Gospel of Luke Scripture Journals – otherwise known as Luke 7.

**While you are turning there, I'm thinking about a man who walked into a doctor's office to have a mole removed from his chin. A pit-bull of a nurse came in and said, "Go down the hall, first door on the left, and take off all your clothes."**

**He said, "Ma'am I don't think that's necessary. They're just removing this mole from my chin."**

**She said, "Down the hall, first door on the left, and take off all your clothes."**

**"But ma'am."**

**"Down the hall, first door on the left and take off all your clothes!"**

**So he went down the hall, went through the first door on the left, and saw another man sitting there in his boxer shorts. He said, "That nurse is really mean."**

**And the guy in his boxer shorts said "Tell me about it, I'm the UPS driver."**

- C. Have you ever known someone who when they give an order people just seem to fall in line?
- D. I've been thinking about giving orders and authority as I've pondered Luke 7 because the first couple of stories in it are all about orders and authority.

## Slide #2 - Scripture

### BODY

#### II Making The Approach

##### A. Luke 7:1-3

**After he had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. When the centurion heard about Jesus, *he sent to him elders of the Jews*, asking him to come and heal his servant.**

- B. The centurion has probably caught wind by now that Jesus was known for having mercy on Gentiles and not just Jews.
- C. But he isn't just a Gentile.
- D. He's an officer in the Roman military and he knows how the Jews feel about the Roman Empire occupying their land.
- E. He probably thought that he'd have more of a chance with Jesus – sending elders of Jesus' own people to ask for him.

## Slide #3 - Scripture

##### F. Luke 7:4-5

**And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue."**

- G. We find out here why the Jewish elders are willing to go to bat for the centurion.
- H. He's become known for loving the Jewish and people and he helped to build their synagogue.
- I. Note that they say the man is "worthy" to have Jesus heal his servant.

## Slide #4 - Scripture

##### J. Luke 7:6-7

**And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, *the centurion sent friends*, saying to him, "Lord do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed."**

- K. So Jesus is on his way, but notice that the centurion now sends a second wave of representatives.
- L. And notice what they say – they quote the centurion saying he says he's *not* worthy to have Jesus come under his roof!
- M. He says exactly opposite what the elders of the Jews do.
- N. He says that Jesus can just say the word – right where He is – and his servant will be healed.
- O. But it's what he says next that gets Jesus' attention.

### III Under Authority

#### Slide #5 - Scripture

##### A. Luke 7:8 –

***"For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."***

- B. The centurion is explaining why he thinks that all Jesus has to do is say the word.
- C. He refers to his own experience with having authority.
- D. He thinks Jesus has authority over sickness the way he has authority over other soldiers.
- E. But I want you to see how he describes authority here.
- F. He says he's a man set under authority, with soldiers under him.
- G. He doesn't say he's a man that has authority but that he's a man under authority.
- H. What does he mean by that?
  - 1. What he means is he has the authority of Rome above him and behind him.
  - 2. He knows his power really comes from the fact that Rome has empowered him and the soldiers underneath him know it.
  - 3. They know that to disobey him is to disobey Rome.
- I. So what's He saying about Jesus then?
- J. He's confessing his belief that Jesus is set under authority Himself – that Jesus has someone above Him and behind Him empowering Him.
- K. What's remarkable isn't just that the centurion believes Jesus has so much authority over sickness that He doesn't have to be in the same place as the sick – He can just say the word!
- L. What's remarkable is that the centurion is confessing that Jesus has someone from above behind Him and empowering Him – that being God!

- M. Did you notice that the centurion had his friends address Jesus as “Lord” in vs.6?
- N. This Gentile – and a Roman centurion at that – is confessing something that not even the elders of the Jews are ready to confess about Jesus.

#### IV Making Jesus Marvel

##### Slide #6 - Scripture

- A. Maybe that’s why we read this next in **Luke 7:9-10 –**

**When Jesus heard these things, *he marveled at him*, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.” And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.**

- B. I love that – Jesus marveled at him.
  - 1. Some translations say Jesus was amazed at him.
  - 2. Can you imagine amazing Jesus?
- C. He’s not found this kind of faith anywhere in Israel!
- D. This just had to rub some of the religious leaders wrong, by the way.
- E. Once again, Jesus is breaking down walls and crossing all kinds of racial and ethnic lines with His healing power.
- F. When the friends returned to the centurion’s house they found the servant well.
- G. Just think, we have no record of the centurion ever formally meeting Jesus – this all happens between his representatives and Jesus.
- H. What must it have been like for the centurion to be at that house the whole time and then suddenly see his servant get better?
- I. By the way, did you notice in this story that there’s nothing mentioned about the sick servant’s faith or whether or not he’s a believer?
- J. Jesus was simply responding to the centurion’s faith on behalf of the sick servant.
- K. This is the second story in Luke where Jesus does something in someone’s life because someone else has brought them and their situation to Jesus.
- L. By the way, it is stories like these that are at the foundation of why I pray for others and don’t concern myself with whether or not they believe or to what degree they believe.
- M. Now the centurion may have amazed Jesus, but Jesus isn’t done amazing everyone else.

## VI Jesus Interrupts A Funeral Procession

### Slide #7 - Scripture

#### A. Luke 7:11-12

**Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her.**

- B. Think about what you see every now and then when a funeral procession makes its way down a street and everyone pulls over out of respect.
- C. Those moments can be so sobering even if you don't know anyone in that procession.
- D. At the center of this procession that Jesus comes across - is a widow who is burying her only son.
- E. She's already been a part of one procession burying her husband.
- F. Maybe her son was beside her to lean on when that happened.
- G. But now, not even her son's there for her to lean on.

### Slide #8 - Scripture

#### H. Luke 7:13-14

**And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."**

- I. Can you imagine this?
- J. First of all Jesus interrupts a funeral procession and tells a grieving mother not to weep.
- K. Then He violates religious law by touching the coffin.
  - 1. A coffin was considered an "unclean" thing.
  - 2. Here Jesus goes again touching unclean things.
- L. Then He gives an order to a dead person!
- M. This cannot get more uncomfortable, but it does.
- N. Because the only thing more amazing than Jesus' behavior is what happens next.
- O. Death obeyed!

## Slide #9 - Scripture

### P. Luke 7:15-17

**And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.**

- Q. This is the first resurrection Jesus has pulled off and everyone is in a frenzy.
- R. By the way, this is a preview of what's going to happen one day in human history.
- S. Jesus is going to interrupt funerals once and for all - they're all going to be canceled and loved ones are going to be returned to the arms of one another.
- T. But for now, in the last few weeks we've seen story after story of just how much Jesus has authority over – from diseases, to demons, to fish in the Sea of Galilee going into nets, to paralysis, to people on the verge of death, and now we see His authority extends over death itself.
- U. It appears there's no limit to what Jesus can do.
- V. And people's imaginations are running wild.
- W. But so are their expectations.

## VII What Did You Expect?

- A. Now have you ever had a time where you needed to address or manage people's expectations of you?
- B. That's called a relationship.

## Slide #10 – Scripture (with reference note – Luke 7:18-35)

- C. This brings us to the next section in **Luke 7:18-35.**
- D. This is a section where Jesus begins to address their expectations of Him.
- E. So in the course of this, He says – **"And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." (Luke 7:23)**
- F. That sounds strange but here's what I think He's saying.
- G. He's acknowledging that it will be possible to be offended by Him – the word "offended" means to be caused to trip or stumble.
- H. There are times when Jesus won't meet our expectations – when He won't do what we think He'll do or want Him to do and it trips us up.
- I. In fact that may be rather normal because Jesus says blessed is the one who is not offended by Him.

## Slide #11 - Scripture

J. Let's keep going - **Luke 7:24b-25**

**"What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts."**

K. What's He saying here?

L. Here's something helpful to know - the local King Herod at the time who rules over Galilee was in charge of what the currency and coins looked like.

M. So on one side of the coins he had an image of the reeds of the Sea of Galilee done.

N. You would see entire beds of them swaying in the wind along the Sea of Galilee.

O. It was kind of a symbol of the area – Bluebonnets – Poppies – Mountain Laurel

P. So Jesus asked the crowds – "Are you expecting me or the kingdom I represent to look like Herod's kingdom?"

Q. "You think it's lined in gold and is going to have currency and coins?"

R. "Are you expecting to find us in soft clothing and living in luxury?"

S. He's not that kind of King and He's not bringing that kind of kingdom.

T. That's what people think though.

U. In fact after seeing all these healings and now a resurrection – most folks are thinking that's where this is headed.

V. Who can oppose the power of Jesus now?!

W. But Jesus is not going to do what they expect.

X. In spite of having all the authority and power that He has, He's not going to do with it what they want or expect and He's trying to prepare them for it.

VIII He's Not Dancing To Your Tune Or Marching To Your Drumbeat

A. And then He pushes the envelope a little bit more.

## Slide #12 - Scripture

B. **Luke 7:31-32**

**"To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.'"**

C. What's He saying?



- D. "You guys are like kids – whining and lamenting that when I don't respond to your cues – when I don't dance or cry when you want me to."

### Slide #13 - Scripture

- E. He continues in **Luke 7:33-34 –**

**"For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'"**

- F. What's He saying?  
G. That they're so attached to their expectations and desires for Him that the moment He departs from them – they write Him off and say all kinds of rotten things about Him.  
H. Make no mistake about it – Jesus loves them and has moved in miraculous ways for the sake of them.  
I. But He's not going to dance for them – He's not out to fulfill their job descriptions for Him.  
J. He's a different King and He's representing a different kind of kingdom.  
K. So what kind of King and kingdom is this?  
L. And this leads us to the last story in the chapter.

### Slide #14 – Reference (Luke 7:36-50)

#### IX Dinner At Simon's House

##### A. **Luke 7:36-50.**

- B. In this story Jesus is eating at the home of a religious leader named Simon.  
C. Back then, you ate while reclining at a table. (sounds pretty good to me)  
D. You leaned in on your elbow with your feet kicked out.  
E. The visual is important because of what happens.  
F. A woman that Luke says is "of the city" – she's "from the streets" – comes into the house.  
    1. Back then homes were constructed with courtyards and areas that had no doors.  
G. She's come to anoint him with a type of very expensive perfume that was probably a family heirloom.  
H. But as she's in His presence, she's so overcome with weeping that her tears fall on His feet.  
I. This leads to her on her knees wiping His feet with her hair and while she's down there anointing His feet with the perfume.

## Slide # 15 and #16 - Scripture

J. We'll pick up in Luke 7:39-40 –

Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, *he said to himself*, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner."

### #16

And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you."

And he answered, "Say it, Teacher."

K. Now this funny.

L. The Pharisee is thinking to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known...."

M. And Jesus *answers him* - Jesus is reading his mail!

N. He knows what Simon's thinking.

## Slide #17 through #20- Scripture

O. Jesus goes on in Luke 7:41-46

"A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

### #18

Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt."

And he said to him, "You have judged rightly."

### #19

Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

### #20

"You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment."

- P. Back then, you honored a guest in your home by giving them a kiss of welcome on the cheek, then giving them the means to wash their feet, and then anointing them with oil of some kind.
- Q. Here's the irony - a "woman of the city" extends the hospitality and honor that Simon withholds in his own home.

### Slide #21 - Scripture

R. Jesus continues in **Luke 7:47** –

**"Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven – for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little."**

- S. In other words, she's acting this way because she's been forgiven of much.
- T. She's not doing this to seek forgiveness – she's doing this because she's already been forgiven.
- U. Perhaps she has crossed paths with Jesus earlier.
- V. He's already said her many sins are forgiven – but He makes it clear for everyone in the room.

### Slide #22 - Scripture

**And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."**

**Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?"**

**And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." (Luke 7:48-50)**

- W. I love those words - because there is really no other way to go through life in peace without experiencing the forgiveness of one's sins and salvation through Jesus.
- X. But that wasn't going to come through a King with coinage of reeds swaying in the wind, or a Ruler in soft clothes and living luxuriously in palaces.
- Y. It was going to come through the One who had authority over sickness, death, demons and the seas heading to a cross.
- Z. Let me leave us with a couple of closing takeaways.

### Slide #23 – First Takeaway

#### Takeaways

- **Where Do You See Yourself In Light Of These Stories?**

- A. Maybe you're as the Roman centurion today.

1. You have someone dear to you who needs the intervention of Jesus in some way.
2. And you want to ask Jesus to move.
- B. Or maybe you're like that widow.
  1. You never even asked for Jesus to move and yet He interrupted your procession in life and has made a profound difference.
  2. You've experienced the help of God.
- C. Or maybe you're like one of those in the crowd.
  1. He's trying to tell you something right now, maybe even challenging your expectations for Him and what you want Him to do or thought He would do.
- D. Or maybe you're like that woman.
  1. You have a profound awareness of how much you've been forgiven.
  2. Your experience with His grace has transforming you from a hardened sinner to a passionate worshiper.

## **Slide #24 – Second Takeaway**

### **• Your Faith Is Precious To Jesus**

- A. Jesus can be amazed by one's faith we saw in the first story.
- B. And in the last story, He goes so far as to say to the woman that her faith saved her.
- C. Wait a second, I thought it was Jesus that saves!
- D. So let me put it this way.

**In 1830, a man named George Wilson killed a government employee who caught him in the act of stealing mail. He went to trial and was sentenced to be hanged. However President Andrew Jackson later pardoned him. But Wilson did a strange thing. He refused to accept the pardon, and no one knew what to do. The case eventually wound up before the Supreme Court.**

**Chief Justice Marshall wrote the court's opinion. In it he said, "A pardon is an act of grace extended from those entrusted with the power to execute the laws of the land. We cannot make anyone accept it. A pardon is a slip of paper, the value of which is determined by the acceptance of the person to be pardoned. If it is refused, there is no pardon. George Wilson must be hanged." And so he was.**

## Slide #25 – Chief Justice Marshall quote

It's those words that stand out to me – "A pardon is a slip of paper, the value of which is determined by the acceptance of the person to be pardoned."

- E. It's Jesus that pardons.
- F. But the value of Jesus' pardon is determined by the acceptance of the person to be pardoned.
- G. That's faith.

## Slide #26 – Communion Reflection

- H. Faith is saying "Jesus who you are and everything you came to bring is of great value to me. Even when it's apparent that your will is different from mine - I choose you."
- I. And *that* is precious to Jesus.
- J. Everyone wants to be trusted in.
- K. And Jesus is no exception.
- L. And as we learn to trust in Jesus – we, too, can go in peace.
- M. It's at a table that woman came to give thanks and expressed a faith that saved her.
- N. And it's at a table we can do the same.
- O. **Communion. (*Leave the takeaways up for communion*)**